

# THE CARRIER



December 2001 <http://www.mdarc.org> <http://www.pacificon.org>

**Official Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo  
Amateur Radio Club**

## BIG PLANS FOR 2002

**General Meeting -- New Date  
Friday December 14  
7:30 PM**

**The Regular Meeting will be held.  
The Holiday Party is in January.  
The meeting is one week early so  
mark your calendar.**

Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
1035 Carol Lane  
Lafayette CA

## What's inside

President's Message	1
Wives and Deviations	2
Holiday Party	6
Board Members	7
Calendar	Back

## Weekly Nets

Monday 8:00 PM SATERN Net Salvation Army 147.06  
Wednesday 7:30 PM ATV Cable Channel 58  
Thursday 7:30 PM Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club 147.06  
RACES and ATV Nets see page 4

Your MDARC membership recently elected an outstanding Board of Directors. This team of go-getters is eager to begin implementing some of the many ideas that were discussed during this past year. We are going to expand our committees to include more creative and hardworking members. We are planning on developing a 12 month calendar of events to better space out and publicize special events and get more people involved. It is wonderful that every time I ask for help and ideas from the membership lots of help shows up. So if we put it in writing and let everyone know what the big plan is then more people will know where their talents and interests can be utilized for the club.

I would like to have a greatly expanded Field Day. Other clubs have asked how they can work with us. We will be having classes this next year. Go get that friend or family member of yours to become a ham with us. We are going to grow the club by 100 new members, with your help. If "Each one bring one", our goal is more than met! Your club is going to be getting the word out to non-club member hams in the area that we are here and thriving. Our monthly programs have been outstanding and we intend to continue to offer value. The speakers that Michael Burge, V.P., has brought to you have been terrific. The technical committee is hard at work in expanding the repeater system coverage. ATV is seeing more people check in each month. Our public service and RACES members continue to provide vital service to the community. PACIFICON 2001 was another outstanding success and was awarded highest marks by ARRL for its 10<sup>th</sup> annual production. We have big plans for 2002. I invite you to be part of the team. It's more fun that way.

73,  
Terry, KE6WRE

## On Wives and Deviations

John Stuart, KM6QX

Yesterday, while working her first public service event, my wife Lee, KG6BOF, had a very interesting 'problem' with her handitalkie. It turned out that it was too 'deviant' for her use!

It was a beautiful Fall day on Treasure Island. We arrived at 6:30 AM to meet with the other Hams providing Safety and Emergency Communications for the first Treasure Island Triathlon. The patchy fog burned off by about 9:00 AM creating a spectacular venue for over 2,000 contestants, several hundred event staff, and other support personal. The 'main event' featured world class men and women athletes who swam a mile, biked 25 miles, then ran 6 miles (officially 1.5 k, 40 k, and 10 k).

Lee and I were stationed on opposite sides of Yerba Buena Island, along the bike course. Lee had a great view of the swim course between the two islands, San Francisco, and the Golden Gate Bridge holding back the fog. I was located on the east side of YBI under the Bay Bridge where I could look down on the Coast Guard Station.

OK, so now here's what happened with Lee's handitalkie. The radio has worked great for two years, until Lee started reporting her first event radio traffic. Her voice began cutting-out, almost in the middle of every word. She checked the battery voltage (a feature of the radio), tried a different microphone, and changed antennas. When she 'backed-off' from the microphone things got a little better, and when she spoke very softly, she had a 100% solid signal.

It was obvious that something was 'clipping' her loud 'event' voice, even though I had used the radio without a problem on many events myself, including 3 days of PACIFICON.

So last night I ran some tests and learned something new and very interesting! While transmitting simplex to another radio, I could yell and holler into the handitalkie, and it worked fine. However, when I whistled into the microphone, my audio was immediately silenced, i.e. squelched! Then I whistled at different frequencies and found that the squelching action was more sensitive to higher frequencies. Thus, the radio

would clip Lee's voice because it contains higher frequency components, while it worked fine for my voice.

Now here's the really interesting thing. During these tests, it was the receiving radio that squelched the audio, not the transmitting handitalkie! I made this conclusion by observing the display on two different receiving radios (both Kenwood). When my high frequency whistle was cut-off, the receiver's "Busy" indicator went off while the S-Meter's received signal strength stay full strength. Thus the receiver was immediately squelching any loud, high pitched audio just as if a needed PL tone was suddenly turned-off (I wasn't using PL CTSS).

When we purchased the radio a couple of years ago, I had tweaked the deviation up a bit to amplify Lee's normally soft voice. This "deviation" adjustment refers to how far the radio's FM carrier frequency is modulated, typically  $\pm 5$  kHz when transmitting the loudest sounds. I had made the adjustment using my voice, not Lee's. So, last night I readjusted the deviation using my 'calibrated' 1 kHz test whistle, and now the radio can handle Lee's higher pitched and louder 'event' voice.

After doing a little Internet research, I discovered a quick fix that I could have used at the event. The handitalkie has a "Half Deviation" option for compatibility with some other radio services. Turning this option on would have made Lee's overly deviant radio compatible with her newly discovered 'event' voice.

What I don't understand is why the receiving radios were completely squelching her audio, not just distorting it. Perhaps it is a clever way the manufacturers (or FCC) have devised to thwart those who attempt to make their transmitter signals 'louder'. In other words, you could increase the loudness / deviation of your transmitter, but then everybody's receiver would squelch it to silence.

So if you're guilty of adding to the deviance of a radio, then you better do the high pitched whistle test. Otherwise, your radio may not work when you most need it. For example, after dropping an Astron on you toe and your voice suddenly jumps an octave or two!

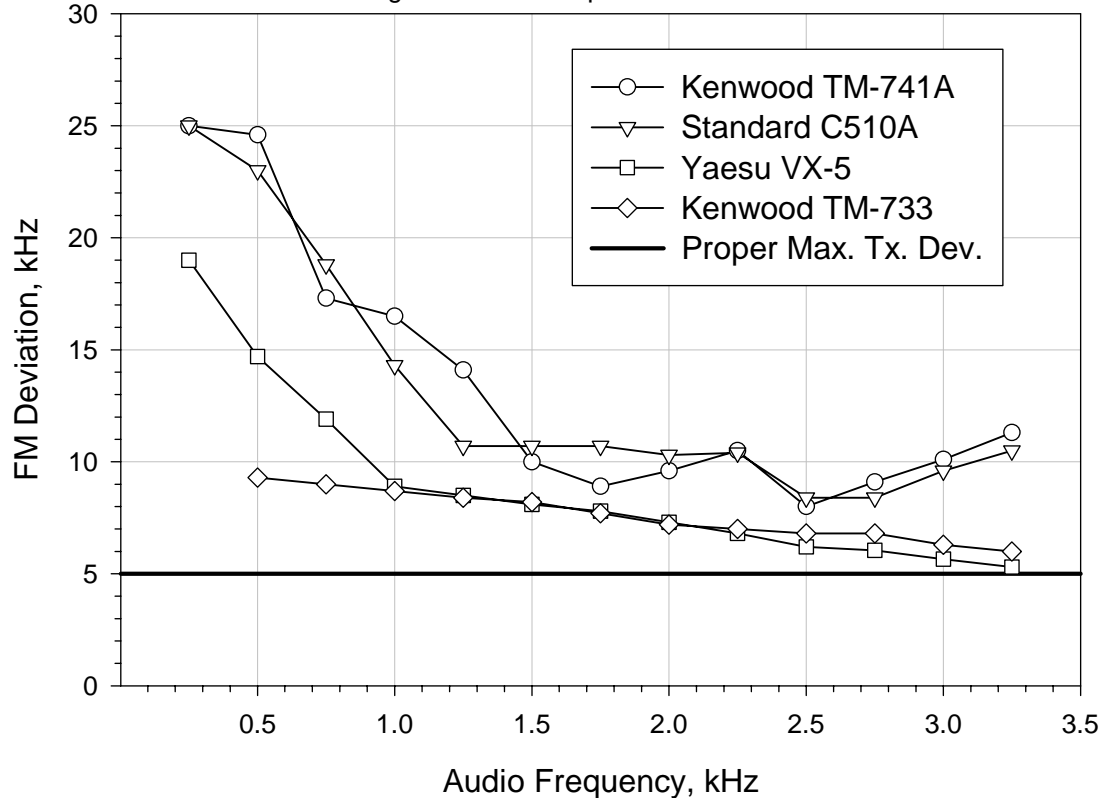
## Excessive Deviation Tests Show Some Radios More Intolerant than Others

After writing my article *On Wives and Deviations*, I had an opportunity to use a 'Service Monitor' to check the FM receiver deviation limits of several radios. I injected a -90 dBm, 147.540 MHz FM signal with an audio tone at various frequencies and increased the FM deviation amplitude until the received audio squelched off. The results are plotted below.

John Stuart, KM6QX

### Maximum Receiver Deviation Limits

Higher deviation squelched audio off.



## New Weather Tx on Mt Diablo

Located on Mt. Diablo, a new NOAA Weather Radio transmitter is on the air at **162.425 MHz**. Besides continuous weather information, this station will also be transmitting local emergency messages, such as chemical releases, etc.

"NOAA Weather Radio is an all-hazards radio network, making it the single source for the most comprehensive weather and emergency information available to the public." For more information including area coverage maps, go to <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/>.

John Stuart, KM6QX

## New Officers Elected

President, Terry Matzkin, KE6WRE  
VP, Mike Burge, KG6CSJ  
Secretary, Eoin O'Donoghue, KD4YEQ  
Treasurer, Trevor Hall, WA6JAU  
Emergency Coordinator, Harry Styron, K6HS  
Directors:  
Jay Caldis, KT6Y  
John Pascale, NN6E.

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email: [rgaschk@tpi.net](mailto:rgaschk@tpi.net)

## RACES Nets Every Thursday at 19:00 hours

Central County Jim Brunk N6BHX 145.680 /s

South County Ed Ritchie K6SFD 146.355 +/-  
100pl

East County Jim Tittle KC6SOE 146.535 /s

West County Rich Parker KD6JCT 145.110 /-

## List of Scheduled Activity for W6CX ATV

SATURDAYS 8:00 AM COFFEE NET

SUNDAYS 8:00 AM COFFEE NET

WEDNESDAY 7:30 PM ELECTRONICS  
CLASS WITH KF6IQL

THURSDAY 8:00 PM. GENERAL ATV NET

## "BAND THREAT" PROCEEDING NOW AVAILABLE FOR E-COM- MENTS

The FCC conceded this week that it had failed to properly post the Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order in ET Docket 01-278 on its Web site. As a result, those hoping to voice their opinions in the proceeding—which poses a potential threat to Amateur Radio—were unable to find the document to add their electronic comments. An FCC spokesperson blamed human error.

The ARRL contacted the FCC earlier this week in an effort to rectify the problem. The NPRM&O now is available on the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System Web site <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>. When searching, enter "01-278" in the "Proceeding" box in the "Search for Filed Comments" window.

## MDARC General Meeting Minutes

11/16/01

President Terry Matzkin, KE6WRE opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and announced the December meeting would be the second Friday, Dec. 14.

New members, upgrades and guests were: John Roland, new ham, Michael Reed, K6BMD, upgrade to Extra, Dana Jones, code upgrade, John Wood, KF6HFA, upgrade to Extra, Mike Bradley, upgrade to Extra at Pacificon, Barry, K6ST, Ken Hargreaves, from New York, new member, Steve Wade, N6OPF, Jack McMullen, KG6INX, Scott Pense, KG6IMF, Bill Cox, KF6ZIT, Tony Bernheard, KG6IDF, Kenn Owen, KG6ISL, Bart Lee, KV6LEE, Barry Boltman, K6SF, Kip Dozier, W6MUE, Mark Schimmelman, N6UAA, Judy Rothbart, and John Hairstan..

Terry further announced receipt at Pacificon of a ARRL Certificate of Appreciation for the Club's 10-years of producing Pacificon, from Jim Maxwell, Pacific Division Director.

Terry closed the balloting, and the committee retired to count.

Terry noted that he was recruiting for committee members for various committees, and that his goal for 2002 was for the club to grow by 100 new members.

Barry, K6ST, reminded members of the joys of contesting, and noted that there was a Sweepstakes contest this weekend.

Mike Burge recognized 5 members who had current birthdays.

The Election Committee Chairman, Jim Brunk, N6BHX, reported the following results (elected for 2002): President, Terry Matzkin, KE6WRE, VP, Mike Burge, KG6CSJ, Secretary, Eoin O'Donoghue, KD4YEQ, Treasurer, Trevor Hall, WA6JAU, Emergency Coordinator, Harry Styron, K6HS, Directors, Jay Caldis, KT6Y and John Pascale, NN6E.

Terry adjourned the meeting, and after the break Bart Lee, KV6LEE, presented an interesting program stemming from his communications service to the Red Cross during the aftermath of the New York WTC disaster.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul Dickey, N6JOX Secretary

## Board of Advisors Sought

for Amateur Master Communicator Course  
Bay area amateur radio operators are invited to participate on a board of advisors to develop a master communicator course for amateur radio. The curriculum and question pool developed by this advisory panel will be presented for continuing education certification to the ARRL.

Minimum qualifications:

- \* Licensed amateur operator at least 2 years
- \* Amateur Technician license or higher
- \* Thorough knowledge of FCC Part 97
- \* Able to attend occasional in-person meetings in San Francisco

Desirable qualifications (one or multiple preferred):

- \* Amateur General license or higher
- \* FCC GROL
- \* On-air commercial broadcast experience
- \* Radio emergency dispatch experience
- \* Teaching experience
- \* Ability to compose lucid multiple choice examinations
- \* Formal communications skills training (Dale Carnegie, college-level public speaking coursework, etc.)
- \* Acting experience (will be useful in development of coursework on-air simulations)

Qualified amateurs are encouraged to email a letter of interest, outlining their qualifications to Ken Alan, K6PSI, at [k6psi@arrl.net](mailto:k6psi@arrl.net).



Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club  
Minutes of The November 5, 2001  
Meeting of the Board of Directors

The meeting was called to order by President Terry Matzkin, KE6WRE, at 7:30 pm at Emil Villa's Concord. In the absence of Secretary Paul Dickey, Harry Styron was appointed temporary recording secretary.

Present at the meeting were the president, vice-president Michael Burge, KG6CSJ, treasurer Trevor Hall, WA6JAU, directors Howard Burke, KE6PTT, Tracy Schwartz, KE6TOT, John Schulze, KR6CR, Mike Patterson, N6JGA, and Emergency Coordinator Harry Styron, K6HS. Also present were Tech Committee Chair, Greg Estep, KE6VTA, Social Chairman George Roush, WB6OFH, nominating committee chair Jim Brunk, N6BHX, Reggie Driscoll, WA6ZAP, and Bob Beard.

The minutes of the October 8 meeting were approved as printed in the Carrier.

The treasurer reported that there was \$5,806.22 in the checking account and \$17,090.84 in the money market account. There has been no receipts nor accounting from Pacificon as yet.

The nominating committee reported the slate of officers, which were printed in the November Carrier. The committee has as yet been unable to find anyone who will agree to run for Secretary. The Board had some suggestions and Jim said he would follow up.

The technical committee reported that the coordination certificate for the two meter repeater has been received from NARCC, and it was displayed for all to marvel at. Vice-president Mike reported that he attended the last Tech Committee meeting and was impressed with the professionalism displayed.

Reggie presented a copy of the club's sales tax permit. He stated that the emergency services magnetic signs had completely sold out and that he had inquiries from other clubs about

purchasing them. He stated that it would cost about \$1,400 to have 100 more made up, and that he believed he could sell them at \$35.00 the pair, profit to go to the Club. No formal action was taken by the Board.

The treasurer presented a draft budget to the Board. The following issues were discussed:

1. The Club pays for four telephone lines — three to the repeater site and one listed for the Club in the directory. The latter line is a business answering line direct to Pacific Bell voicemail, and costs about \$45 per month. In the past this service has been provided with a residential line and an answering machine. The president will discuss with Dick Schulze why the change was made.

2. Extensive discussion was had concerning the relationship of Pacificon to the Club and the likelihood that the Club would continue to sponsor it and receive the revenue from it. It was noted that Pacificon has a standing obligation to the Club of \$4,000, which was the original seed money advanced 10 years ago when the Club assumed responsibility for putting it on. Greg noted that the financial reporting for Pacificon was routinely delayed until at least December, because bills come in late and some vendors are slow to pay their rent. Greg noted that by the end of the year he prepares a consolidated statement for tax reporting purposes which takes into account the Pacificon results.

3. The budget for the repeater operations was discussed. A number of items, including the voting receiver antennas and a new two meter power amplifier, were shown for next year's budget which have been approved for this year but have not yet been purchased. The technical committee was directed to accelerate those purchases so that those items would not have to be carried into next years budget.

The treasurer was directed to obtain a breakdown of income between membership dues and repeater support, and present it before the next Board meeting.

Motion was made by Styron, seconded by Burge, to create a Finance Committee, to be made up of

3 Board members chaired by the treasurer, the two other members to be appointed by the president, to address accounting and budget issues, and to report to the Board from time to time as necessary to assist in resolving those issues. Motion passed by voice vote.

Discussion of the budget was not complete when we were informed that the restaurant was closed.

The meeting was adjourned without completing the agenda at 9:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Styron  
Recording secretary pro tempore

## How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ.

To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:

ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site, <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections—including delivery of The ARRL Letter—registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes, and click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

\* ARRLWeb, <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>

## Emergency Services

Thanks to all for electing me to this important position. I hope to provide some "value added" to your club membership.

Rumors of changes in the emergency services organization in Contra Costa County are true (at least some of them)! More responsibility has been given to the city emergency coordinators (ECs) to manage response organizations serving their cities and special districts (e.g., Contra Costa Fire District). This change follows the governmental response pattern under the California Standard Emergency Management System (SEMS).

Even if you have not enrolled in the County RACES organization you should be in touch with your City EC. Take a look at <http://races.contra-costa.net> and follow the "organization" link for contact information. You can also keep abreast of organizational announcements by subscribing to the email list at [races@contra-costa.net](mailto:races@contra-costa.net). Either send a message to [races-request@contra-costa.net](mailto:races-request@contra-costa.net) with the word "subscribe" as the only word in the text, or go to <http://www.contra-costa.net/mailman/listinfo> and sign up there.

73, Harry, K6HS

MDARC Emergency Coordinator

# Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club Annual Dinner

Friday January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2002  
At Our Savior's Lutheran Church in  
Lafayette

Doors open at 6:00pm  
Tri-tip Dinner served at 7:00pm  
Theme is patriotic.

Cost: \$8.00 for Adults, \$4.00 for Children  
10 and under.

RSVP by January 10th to George Roush,  
925 687-0912  
2116 Athene Dr., Concord CA 94519

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Adults \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$8.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
Children \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$4.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to MDARC



## MDARC Board of Directors

Position	Who	How to find them
President	Terry Matzkin KE6WRE	925-820-5848 (h) myword@sprynet.com
Vice President	Michael Burge KG6CSJ	925-283-4796 (h) mburge@earthlink.net
Secretary	Paul Dickey N6JOX	925-376-3971 (h) paulr33@earthlink.net
Treasurer	Trevor Hall WA6JAU	925-680-5209 (h) wa6jau@netzero.net
Emergency Coordinator	Harry Styron K6HS	925-945-6785 (h) k6hs@arll.net
Director at Large	Howard Burk KE6PTT	925-798-7208 (h) ke6ptt@bigfoot.com
Director at Large	John Schulze KR6CR	925-681-0552 (h) schulze2@ix.netcom.com
Director at Large	Mike Patterson KE6JGA	925-944-8786 (h) mapa@ieee.org
Director at Large	Tracey Schwartz KE6TOT	925-370-1917 (h) kurtps@earthlink.net
Membership Chair	Sam Lipson KO6JR	925-229-5705 (h) ko6jr@arll.net
Carrier Editor	Greg Estep KE6VTA	925-830-8615 (h) grestep@home.com

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Janet, KL7MF, Mgr.  
anaheim@hamradio.com

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**Call Now For Low Pricing!**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

12/14/2001	6:00 PM	VE Testing	
12/14/2001	7:30 PM	MDARC General Meeting --- Note Date change	
12/28/2001		Carrier Deadline	
01/07/2002	7:30 PM	MDARC Board Meeting	Emil Villa's in Concord
01/18/2002	7:30 PM	MDARC Holiday Party	<b>NO VE Testing</b>
01/19/2002	8:00 AM	PACIFICON General meeting	Emil Villa's Willow Pass Rd
01/25/2002		Carrier Deadline	

Carrier articles should be sent to Greg Estep <mailto:grestep@home.com>

## MDARC Repeaters

147.060 MHz + / PL 100 Hz	ATV: Input 1289.25 Mhz
224.780 MHz - / PL 77 Hz	ATV: Output 427.250 MHz Cable Channel 58
441.325 MHz + / PL 100 Hz	ATV: Output 1241.25 Mhz
	APRS: 144.39 MHz
	TCP/IP: 145.71 MHz

**The Carrier**  
**Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club**  
**P.O. Box 23222**  
**Pleasant Hill, CA 94523**

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